

# Texans Will Be Soloists For Evangelism - Bible Conference

The roster of musicians for the Evangelism-Bible Conference has been filled with Mississippians and a nationally-known soloist.

The soloist is Martha Branham of Dallas, Tex., a concert and evangelistic singer who will present a sacred vocal concert at the statewide meeting.

Feb. 12-14 are the dates for the Evangelism-Bible Conference which takes place at First Baptist Church,

Baptist World Alliance

## "Channel To Help Fulfill The Commands Of Jesus"

By Robert S. Denny  
General Secretary  
Baptist World Alliance

People often ask me, "What is the purpose of the Baptist World Alliance?" It is a good question anytime, and it is especially appropriate as we look toward observance of Baptist World Alliance Day on the first Sunday in February.

The answer to the question is this: The objectives of the BWA are the same as those of your own local church. The Alliance is, in fact, an extension of your local church — an extension beyond the sanctuary to the ends of the earth.

Our world family — the baptized believers who comprise the membership of BWA — numbers about 29 million, and we live in 120 countries. Some of these are free countries, others are dominated by atheistic governments

Meridian. The conference includes Christian music, theological discussions, and inspirational speaking.

Another Texan on the program will be Geoff Ben Ward, soloist at First Baptist Church, Houston.

Dan Hall, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department, and Tom Larimore, Jackson-based music evangelist, will be among the song leaders for the conference.

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Martha Branham

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As Baptist Aid Given  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board virtually depleted its disaster relief funds by appropriating more than \$46,000 in January. An additional \$143,000 was allocated from hunger relief funds. Only \$7,831 is left in the board's general relief funds, which are kept separate from those earmarked for hunger. The \$100,000 set aside last year by the board for use in case of major emergency needs has also been depleted. The board's policy on hunger fund utilization requires that the money be used in projects that are directly hunger-related. The general relief funds may be used for hunger relief, but are most often used to provide shelter, medicine, blankets and clothing.

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1979

Volume CII, Number 50

## Executive Board Approves Revised WMU Base Design

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Updates on Southern Baptist missions from the two mission boards highlighted the Executive Board meeting of Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention, in mid-January. Also punctuating the week-long meeting was the approval of a revised WMU Base Design, approval of organizational plans for 1980-81, and adoption of a statement on women in church-related vocations.

Baker James Cauthen, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, and William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, brought a recap of the past year in Southern Baptist missions along with projections for the coming year.

Cauthen, a former missionary to China, addressed the executives on the recently opened U.S./China diplomatic relations. Cauthen said that through China's history she was destined to become a great nation. He said the open door to tourism may cause suppression of Christianity in the Communist country to come to the forefront. "Maybe churches will again be opened," he said.

Winston Crawley, director of the Board's overseas division, revealed that missionary appointments in 1978 exceeded those in 1977 by 25 percent, with a total of 2,906 missionaries plus more than 2,800 volunteers in 94 countries.

R. Keith Parks, director of the mission support division said that in a recent survey, 87 percent of churches questioned said they had a remarkable increase in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions because of the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis.

Parks said that while there was a marked increase in giving to foreign missions, "we can't go on financing the entire mission enterprise by barely meeting the rate of inflation. There are going to be financial problems in the future if we really don't get bold in our giving," he challenged.

Earlier in the week William Tanner revealed a goal for having 50,000 Southern Baptist churches by the year 2000.

Tanner said because of conviction that God is in charge Christians can possess a "holly optimism" about the world and the missions enterprise.

The WMU Base Design, a document designating the organizational structure and responsibilities of Woman's Missionary Union work in the church, was approved for implementation in 1981-84. Also approved was a 416-page document, the WMU Dated Plan, which specifies organization plans for the 1980-81 year.

In response to the specific issue of women in church-related vocations Woman's Missionary Union adopted an official statement, recognizing that the topic deals with one of the many groups within WMU constituency.

The document included a section of eleven policy commitments referring to Bible study, theology and doctrine, audience, dialogue, jobs, role models, purpose, heritage, self-image, missions, and the denomination. Also included was a study of WMU publications. This was to insure that all concepts and graphics represent women and girls in roles consistent with the

policies confirmed in the official response.

In administrative business, the WMU Board approved new policies in the following areas: "flexitime" schedule for employees; personnel re-

(Continued on page 2)

## State Girl Appointed To Acteens Panel

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Susan K. Washburn, daughter of the William N. Washburns of Blue Mountain, has been selected as one of six members of the third Acteens National Advisory Panel. The panel is sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. The announcement was made by Beverly Sutton, national Acteens consultant, during the WMU Executive Board meeting last week.

Susan is a 16-year-old high school junior. A member of Lowrey Memorial Church, Tippah-Benton Association, she has been a member of Acteens for five years. She has attained the level of Queen Regent in Service in Studiaact, the individual achievement plan for Acteens.

At her church, Susan sings in the youth choir and is editor of the Acteens' newsletter. Her school activities include 4-H, Future Business Leaders of America, Beta Club, Spanish Club, and statistician for Blue Mountain High School basketball teams.

Panlists were selected for their scholastic achievement, school as well as church involvement, and accomplishments in Studiaact. In addition to their applications and written testimonies, the candidates had to be recommended by both their pastor and Acteens leader.

Acteens will include writing for Accents (the WMU missions monthly magazine for girls in grades 7-12). They will be featured in the March 1979 issue. Panlists may also appear at



Susan Washburn

state and associational WMU-related meetings. They will serve as pages at the national WMU Annual Meeting, June 10-11, 1979, in Houston, Tex.

Susan is the second girl from Mississippi to receive this honor. The first was Talitha Edwards from Grenada in 1977 — the first year for the panel.

## Jacksonian Is Med Receptor For Bangalore

RICHMOND, Va. — R. Earl Bowie has been named medical receptor for the Baptist Hospital in Bangalore, India, by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

A Jackson, Miss., native, Bowie is presently a student at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. He attends First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Bowie will go to India in March to provide three months of medical assistance at the Bangalore hospital. The medical receptor program allows medical and dental students who have completed their third year of medical school to get a first-hand look at medical missions while fulfilling an elective requirement.

Bowie received the bachelor of arts degree in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg. After graduation, he served as a summer missionary in Hawaii in 1975 sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Student Union. He has also worked as a grounds maintenance worker in Bay St. Louis, Miss., and as a criminal lab technician in Montgomery, Ala.

## Hotline Returns

ATLANTA — The Home Mission Board has again turned to the telephone, Jan. 2 - March 31, to communicate mission needs and stimulate concern over the HOTLINE.

More than 1,900 callers enjoyed a mix of news, features and prayer requests on the call-in newsline during 1978, an increase of 30 percent over the previous year.

The messages, changed every Friday morning, have been tape recorded for playback to missions groups, worship services and prayer meetings. The HOTLINE number is (404) 875-7701.

The only cost is the price of a long-distance phone call.

## Noble Takes Ohio Post

Eli F. (Skip) Noble, Jr., Associate BSU Director at the University of Southern Mississippi since August, 1971, has resigned, effective February 2 to accept the position of Southwest Regional Baptist Student Director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. About twenty-five schools of various types are in the region which includes the cities of Dayton and Cincinnati.

Mrs. Noble is the former Kay Robertson of Greenwood.

## Sheen, Carter Highlight National Prayer Breakfast

By Stan Hasteby  
WASHINGTON (BP) — More than 3,000 persons attending the annual National Prayer Breakfast heard Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen declare that Americans need to confess both personal and corporate sin.

Noting that "we Americans do not

like to hear about sin," the famed Catholic preacher drew laughter when he said that whereas Catholics have long taught the immaculate conception of Mary, "now all Americans believe they are immaculately conceived."

He identified America's chief sin as that of being more concerned about nuclear arms than about life. The archbishop, clearly a hit with the crowd, which stood to applaud when he finished his sermon with a dramatic, arms-uplifted gesture, began his remarks by addressing the audience as "my fellow sinners." Turning to President and Mrs. Carter, he said he was including them as well.

Carter paid tribute to Sheen during his remarks. Recalling having followed the Catholic prelate's television program years ago, he said, "it even boosts my spirits when he refers to us as 'fellow sinner.'"

President Carter appealed for continued prayers for peace in the Middle East and elsewhere and recalled that the arduous 13-day negotiations at Camp David last fall were marked by sincere prayer on the part of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, and himself.

"But peace is still elusive," the president declared. He asked the audience, comprised largely of influential politicians, diplomats, and church-leaders, to use their influence for the cause of peace.

In his remarks, Carter reaffirmed his commitment to separation of

(Continued on page 2)

## "O Wad Some Power . . ."

O wad some power the giftie gie us  
To see oursels as ither see us!

—Robert Burns

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, Ill. (BP) — Joseph O'Donnell, a priest from Newman, Ga., and a regional worker for the Glenmary Home Missioners, described Southern Baptists from a Catholic perspective to 130 priests and 40 nuns at the clergy conference of the Belleville Diocese:

(1) "They know how to use the public media, with Billy Graham's television ministry one of the best examples.

(2) "Southern Baptists are more open to dialogue with us than any of the other Baptist bodies in America.

(3) "They are not 'holier-rollers.' Often, their worship is more formal than some of our services. And their music — oh, it's beautiful, beautiful. You should see what they do with their choirs and congregational singing, and the money they spend on it."

(4) "Southern Baptists are the largest, wealthiest, best organized, and most mission-minded of any of the Baptist bodies. One Sunday last year, they raised \$35 million for foreign missions. The best we did on any one Sunday was \$5 million."

(5) "They baptize by immersion, and their baptism would be accepta-

ble by us."

(Continued on page 2)

James Wood, right, enumerates critical issues in church-state relations for an assembly of black and white participants in a Human Relations Seminar at William Carey College, Hattiesburg.

The seminar was one of four sponsored last week by the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, headed by Clark Hensley, pictured far left and by the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, Dick Brogan, president.

The others were held at the other three Mississippi Baptist colleges: Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College, and Clarke College.

Wood, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C., was joined in the seminars by Charles E. Bodie, president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn.

The four most critical issues in church-state relations today, according to Wood, are lobby disclosure legisla-

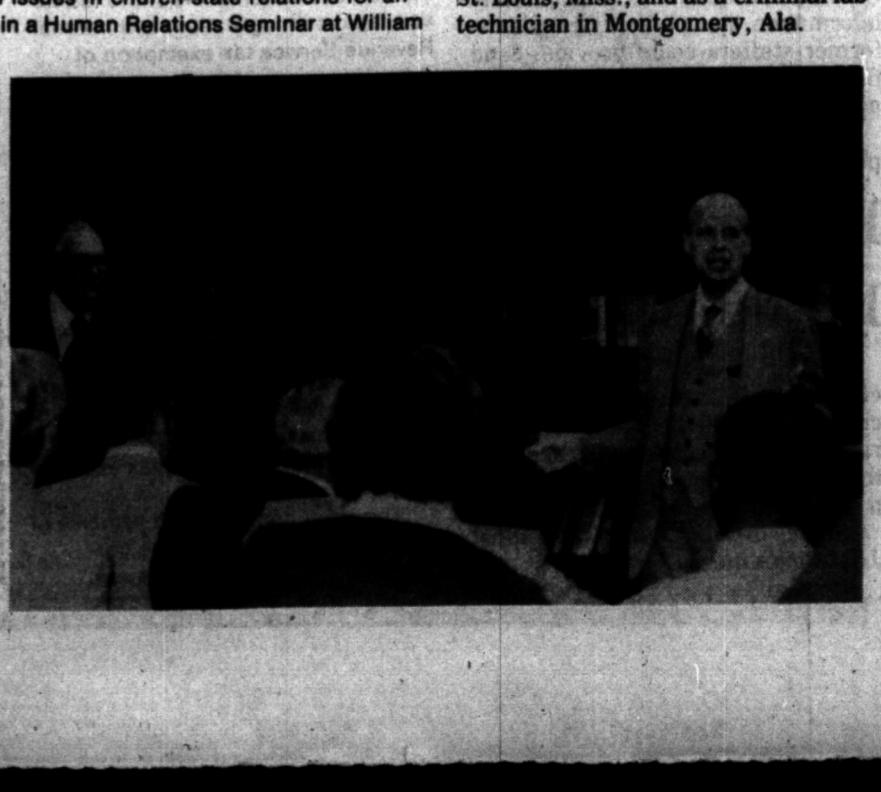
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## Church-State Issues Noted

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As Baptist Aid Given

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board virtually depleted its disaster relief funds by appropriating more than \$46,000 in January. An additional \$143,000 was allocated from hunger relief funds.





# Children's Music Leadership Clinics Will Take Place February 20, 23

The Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is scheduling five regional clinics, February 20 and 23, to train those working with children and music. This will be for choir teachers, Sunday School, kindergarten, or anyone interested in how to use music in teaching children.

The 12 area clinicians trained by the Church Music Department will be leading these clinics in the following churches:

February 20  
6:00 - 9:30 a.m.

- First Church, Grenada
- 1. Beverly Mercer — Pre-School
- 2. Sarah Talley — Younger Children
- 3. Nedra Carter — Older Children
- Highland Church, Meridian
- 1. Gwen Keys Hitt — Pre-School
- 2. Farley Earnest — Younger Children
- 3. Linda Fancher — Older Children
- First Church, Brookhaven
- 1. J. T. Hannaford — Pre-School
- 2. Susan Beaver — Younger Children
- 3. Bill Barnes — Older Children

February 23  
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

- Calvary Church, Tupelo
- 1. Kathy Anderson — Pre-School
- 2. Farley Earnest — Younger Children
- 3. Charlotte McElroy — Older Children

Temple Church, Hattiesburg

1. Gwen Keys Hitt — Pre-School

- 2. Annette Joe — Younger Children
- 3. Bill Barnes — Older Children
- There will be a \$2.00 registration fee per person to be taken at the clinic. Sarah Talley, music Specialist in children's music with the Church Music Department, is coordinating these events. She may be contacted for further information at 354-3704.

## Young Musicians' Festival Set For May 5

The annual state choral festival for children, grades 4-6, will be held in the Mississippi College Coliseum on Saturday, May 5.

The guest conductor will be Terry Kirkland, composer and writer for *Young Musicians*, and co-editor of the *Young Musicians* magazine. Kirkland will conduct the *Go Tell Your Neighbor* collection compiled by Bill Leach. Two of his songs are in the collection.

Sarah Talley, Church Music De-

partment, is coordinating this event, along with committee chairman, Bill Bacon, First Church, Clinton. Mrs. Talley said, "We are emphasizing the Bold Mission thrust this year, and we feel that this collection of mission anthems will be enjoyable and useable in the local church. If you have not ordered the music, do not delay."

Copies are available at the Baptist Book Store or from Anthem Service. It is a Broadman publication, No. 4526-14.

## Missionary News

Jerry and Glenda White, missionaries to Korea, are the parents of a son, Thomas Kyle, born Dec. 13. They may be addressed at O Jung Dong 201-5, Taejon, Korea 300. They are natives in Mississippi.

Bruce Raley, son of Harry and Frances Raley, missionaries to Taiwan, married Sandy Dooley Dec. 29 in San Antonio, Tex. Currently in the States on furlough, his parents may be addressed at 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206.

Cynthia L. McGee, missionary to Chile, has completed language study and arrived on the field to begin her first term of service (address: Casilla 3388, Santiago, Chile). She was born in Memphis, Tenn., and grew up in Jackson, Miss. Before she was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1977, she was a teacher in Ocean Springs, Miss. 38561.

Amanda Tinkle, 71, emeritus missionary who served 35 years in Nigeria, died Jan. 12 in an Arkansas convalescent center at Benton, Ark., following a lengthy illness. Miss Tinkle was a native of Benton and made her home there following retirement from missionary service in 1973.

Alcides Telles Almeida, executive secretary of the Brazilian Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board, died Jan. 13. He was about 70. Almeida, a pastor, began his work in Brazilian foreign missions in 1955, as corresponding secretary for the convention's foreign board.

## Shirley Cothran To Appear At Lucedale Rally

Former Miss America Shirley Cothran will highlight an area wide Christian Rally in Lucedale Jan. 27 and 28.

The rally is planned for First Church, Lucedale. The January 27 service will be at 7 p.m. The January 28 service will be during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Reeta Davidson, a Lucedale Christian recording artist, will sing during both services.

Mrs. Cothran is from Denton, Tex., and was Miss America in 1975. She has traveled extensively to participate in youth conferences and evangelistic crusades.

Johnny Walker, pastor at Lucedale, extends an invitation to everyone to attend.

Hindsboro Church has gone over its "Together We Build" victory goal of \$125,000.

## At Broadmoor, Jackson

### Elder, McCarty Will Lead Five Seminars For Singles

A series of five seminars for singles will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Jan. 28-Feb. 25, on "Total Fulfillment in Daily Living."

Phil McCarty, professor at Mississippi College, will lead all the seminars except one. Jon Elder, executive director of Jackson Youth for Christ, will be the speaker for the first one, Jan. 28, on "Single Parent with Children."

Topics for McCarty's talks will be: Feb. 3 — "Biblical Approach to Life"; Feb. 11 — "Changing Times In Your

Life"; Feb. 18 — "Dealing with Troublesome Spots"; and Feb. 25 — "Identifying and Directing Your Plan." All sessions will be open for discussion.

The meeting place for all seminars will be the back west end (dining hall) of Broadmoor Church. Each seminar will be from 6 to 6:30 p.m., and will be preceded by a period of fellowship from 5:30 to 5:55.

Child care will be available. If further information is needed, anyone interested may call 386-8500.

## Staff Changes

Richard Smith has accepted a call to Hillcrest Church in New Albany as minister of music and youth. Smith, born in New Albany, married Sherry Brown of Miami, Fla. They have three children, Debbie, 15; Wanda, 13; and Scott, 10. Since 1962, Smith has served

churches in Mississippi and Florida in music, education and youth ministries.

He received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from Mississippi College and did further study at the University of Miami.

First, Bay St. Louis has called Bill Denington as part time youth director. Denington is a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Gulf Gardens Church, Gulf Coast, has called James Whittington as pastor.

Sharon Church, Gulf Coast, has called George Abrams as pastor.

First Church, Wiggins has called Gene Springfield as minister of education and youth.

Tad Denson, a student at University of Southern Mississippi, has been called by the Woodville Church as youth and music director. During the school term, his service will be part-time, and he will be continuing on a full-time basis during the summer.

Denson grew up in Jackson, where he was a member of Broadmoor Church. He attended Murrah High School and Millsaps. At the University of Southern Mississippi, he is a member of the U.S.M. Singers. He has been active in youth and music work on the church, associational and state levels, leading in retreats, fellowships, and evangelism conferences. He previously was minister of music at Mt. Zion Church, Mt. Zion, Miss.

Alton Fagan is the new pastor of Wanilla Church, Lawrence County. Fagan moved to Wanilla from Fellowship Church, State Line. He, with his wife, Charlene, and children, Cort, Troy, and Chrissie moved into the parsonage at Wanilla in early January. They were honored with an "old time" pounding on their first Sunday as pastor.

Try paying your bills with a smile. If that doesn't work try money. — Henry E. Leabo

**Washington, D. C. (RNS)** — The nation's rising divorce rate makes it "imperative" to give homemakers Social Security credit for their household work, according to the American Jewish Congress. "Marriage is an economic partnership in which each spouse should have equal access to the benefits," the Jewish agency said at a public hearing of the Advisory Council on Social Security of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

Truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, with prayer, perseverance, and supplication form the spiritual equipment needed to be victorious over Satan.

If we are faithful to God, ourselves, and others, we too, can see Satan fall as lightning from heaven.

Serving God effectively does not set one in a place of solitude, but rather on the plains of spiritual battle where the stakes are high. If we are truly serving God, we know in the midst of battle who will be victorious. With this assurance we take courage and fight on. We should and can be good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Today the battle lines are drawn. Who is on the Lord's side?

"Be of good cheer," said Jesus, "I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

I hope you and your church are doing something that is troubling to Satan. If he is ignoring you it is "prima facie" evidence you need to re-examine your program and activities.

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Greeting in Jesus. God's blessing on His work grows.

1,833 Bibles were given in Oct.-Dec. Grand Total

42,788. Chaplain Sweat

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young people gave their lives to

Jesus in the past few months. Chaplain Sangèr

writes from Lillington, NC,

300 saved in past few years

in his ministry. Three prison

Inmates wrote in Oct.-Nov.,

to say they gave their lives to

Christ. All glory and praise to

His Holy Name. God said

that His Word would not return unto Him void, but

would accomplish His will.

One good church has

bought a ton of paper which

will print 2,000 KJV New Testa-

ments for the Crusade to

send to prison inmates. Will

you pray about doing the

same? From each worker at

the Crusade we thank you

each and every one for your

love, prayers, and support.

## The Missions Task

### Our Adversary

By John Alexander, director,

Stewardship Department

Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Jehovah, and Satan standing at his right hand to be his adversary (3:2). In the beginning of his earthly ministry Jesus faced an adversary. He was tempted of the devil (Matt. 4:1). When sowers sow the word it is Satan who comes to take away the word that is sown in them (Mark 4:15).

The tragic deed of Judas toward Jesus is explained by Luke as occurring after Satan entered into Judas (22:3).

Simon Peter explained that Satan had filled the heart of Ananias and Sapphira causing them to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land (Acts 5:3).

Paul was not surprised at the character and works of false apostles for even Satan fashioneth himself an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14).

Paul explained their absence from Thessalonica as having occurred because Satan hindered them (I Thes. 2:18).

As mortals we are no match for Satan. Without the help and power of God we will defeat us every time. If Satan is not opposing what you are doing as a Christian, it is the best evidence in the world that what you are doing isn't worth doing!

A pastor with whom I was working recently in a missions effort remarked, "I've never been engaged in anything in all my ministry that Satan fought harder than he did this campaign. Not a word of criticism came from our people who prayed, studied, worked, and gave. It was evident at every forward step, however, that Satan was working hard to defeat us. He didn't succeed!"

How do we deal with Satan? When Satan desired Simon Peter, Jesus prayed for him. James said, "Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (4:7).

John tells us, "To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (3:8).

Paul tells us not to give place to the devil (Eph. 4:24) but to "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be

## Planned Youth Week Yet?

Let Us Help You!

Attend the —

### "How To Plan A Youth Week Conference"

Nearest you.

LOCATION	DATE	LOCATION	DATE
Harrisburg, Tupelo	January 29	First, Meridian	January 29
First, Columbus	January 30	First, Hattiesburg	January 30
First, Belzoni	February 1	First, Brookhaven	February 1
First, Batesville	February 2	First, Clinton	February 2

### Led By



Martha Jo Glazner,  
Editor for BAPTIST YOUTH  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
Nashville, TN

### Led By



Wanda Pearce  
Special Youth Worker  
Arkansas  
Church Training Department

All Conferences 7:00 p.m.

Materials will be available for purchase.

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Pornography And Alcohol . . .

### Critical Issues Right Now

The ethics bill that passed the Senate late last week has taken up a good part of the time of the Senate. Commendation is due the men who continued to work until a statement concerning the ethics of public servants was accepted by the Senate. Hopefully such a measure will be passed by the House also, and there will be a means of judging men who serve in public places and of weeding out those who shouldn't serve.

This writer has seen the bill that the Senate passed late last week. It was revised in committee from the one I obtained early in the session. I attended one meeting of Senate Judiciary Committee A and a part of a Senate session and heard enough to know that the sponsors of this bill were interested in having passed a measure that would effectively serve the state in dealing with unethical behavior on the part of its officials and others who serve the public.

#### Equally Important

Other legislation is yet to be considered by the Legislature that is equally as important as the ethics bill.

Three bills on pornography face the Senate. They are Senate Bills 2314, 2315, and 2316. These are now in Senate

Judiciary Committee B for consideration. Companion bills are in the House. They are House Bills 332, 333, and 334. Other pieces of pornography legislation have been introduced in both houses. These were mentioned because they were designed to complement each other."

#### Both Houses

Legislation concerning alcohol is before both houses. Of particular note are SB 2224 by Sen. Sam Wright and HB 227 and 617 by Reps. Malcolm Mabry and Dennis Dollar. These bills would lower the amount of alcohol in the blood stream for one to be considered drunk.

Mississippi has many outstanding distinctions, but its distinctiveness concerning drunk driving is not something to be proud of. This state alone allows motorists to be drunk and still drive legally. These bills mentioned would seek to correct that situation. All would declare a person drunk with .10 per cent or more alcohol in his blood stream. Presently in Mississippi a person can have a blood alcohol content of .15 per cent before being considered intoxicated. That is 50 per cent higher. Some kind of a bill on limiting the blood alcohol content needs to

come out of the Legislature this year.

Then another bill, SB 2027, would make the advertising of alcohol legal in Mississippi. This absolutely makes no sense. Legally, Mississippi is a dry state. It's hard to recognize it as such, but that is the fact. There is no reason that the advertising of alcohol should be allowed. This bill must be stopped in its tracks.

#### Greater Harm

We don't allow the advertising of cigarettes on TV, and they are not illegal. There seems to be no question but that cigarettes harm the user. How much greater harm is done by the use of alcohol! Advertising is not allowed now in Mississippi because Mississippi is a dry state. Advertising should not be allowed anyway. Let's keep it that way.

All of these bills and others were discussed in the *Baptist Record* of Jan. 11 in an article by J. Clark Hensley, executive director of the Christian Action Commission, and in an editorial.

Our government, state and national, is what we as voters make of it or allow it to become. At this point we have some dedicated, responsible, and morally conscious legislators in Mississippi. We must help them take care

of these moral needs that they see facing the state.

#### Largest Group

We Baptists are by far the largest religious group in the state. If we don't contact our legislators to let them know of our support for the right kind of legislation, they will have a reason to feel that we don't care what they are doing.

A new climate is beginning to take shape in Mississippi. In not a little degree it is being formed by Baptists in the Legislature who are committed to helping bring about a good moral climate in the state. They are not involved in these efforts because they are Baptists but because of their convictions. There are many of other faiths just as dedicated to right.

Please, let's help them. We have no alternative.

Pastors, the moral consciousness of the members of your church may depend to a very large extent on how much you are able to awaken their thinking. Don't fail them at this point. Pornography and alcohol are genuine concerns of all right-thinking people and are critical issues in Mississippi right now.

### Baptist Men's Day . . .

### More Men Involved

Jan. 28 is Men's Day across the Southern Baptist Convention. Why we have a Men's Day and not a Women's Day is not readily understandable. It could have to do with the thought that generally women see the needs and get involved while a great mass of the men of the churches are still waiting for the opportunity to serve.

Men's Day evidently has a two-fold purpose. It is a time for honoring the men who are serving the Lord through their church work. And it would seek to interest those who are not very active in finding places of service.

On the other hand, why are not more men serving? Maybe there's not anything for them to do. In the churches where the writer has had experience most of the jobs handled by men usually went two or three jobs per man.

I've been in churches where men had been members for years without ever having been asked to do anything. Whether or not a new man in the congregation finds anything to do many times depends on how aggressive he is in insisting that he intends to do something. Otherwise, he may be the recipient of a glance by those of the inner circle as he enters and leaves the

church buildings. Some of our people of greatest faith may be those who are not being used. It takes a real perseverance to continue in attendance when one is being ignored.

Why does it always have to be the one with experience who has the vital committee post? And how does one go about getting experience?

Men, the pastor can't find everybody who is lost in the backwaters and draw them into the mainstream. Many adult new members, whether by letter or baptism, will move right on out the back door unless someone takes an interest in them. Win Arn, the church growth expert, recognizes this and says it takes a new member inflow through a two-inch pipe to stay ahead of the loss of members through a one-inch pipe.

It has been pointed out that 20 per cent of the congregation carries 80 per cent of the financial load. The fact that few men get involved financially and that few men are actively involved in work may be related.

Men's Day should serve as a springboard toward having more men involved.

Since I wrote an article last year about Hux Church, I have kept picking up bits of information about the building, in the time when it was a school.

Martha Cavin of Clinton called and said that her mother Lora Hastings, taught at Hux School in 1913 and 1914. She told me that the 19-year-old Lora, who lived with her Aunt Mae and Uncle Jehu White, walked five miles to school every morning. She taught first, second, and third grades on one side of the room while the principal taught the older grades on the other side, a curtain separating the two sections. On March 26, 1915, Lora married Herschel Cavin and ended her teaching career.

Johnny Mackey remembered that his grandfather, Peter Smith, built the school in the late 1800's. "I don't know which year. He told me a log building was used before this one."

"I knew it was built before 1900," Olivia Stupzman said. "My brother, Gordie Lee White, was born in 1900 and he started to school here."

Mrs. Stupzman of Woodville said she went to school at Hux in the 1920's. It was only a mile from her house. She



### Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

#### The Little Grey Church In The Wildwood



In the forests of Wilkinson County is the old Hux School, where the last class was taught 42 years ago, in 1937.

Since 1947 the building has been the Hux Baptist Church. Its outer coat of paint almost gone, the small one-room structure looks like a sleepy ghost. But it comes to life two Sunday afternoons a month when maybe half of the 21 members arrive to listen to a sermon.

Johnny Clark remembered bringing buckets of water to the school room from a spring in the woods. "And we picked mayhalls at recess time."

A Baptist church began meeting in the old school house in 1947. M. E. Causey, who died last year, was pastor there 17 years; during that time he was also pastor at Ebenezer in Amite County.

Earlier pastors included Elmer Howell, former state Brotherhood director, now retired; and Stanley Stamps, now a missionary in Nicaragua; and Sam Waggoner.

John Paul Jones, director of missions for Mississippi Association, told me that Burnett Carraway, a layman from Oak Grove Church, Smithdale, is preaching now at Hux first and third Sundays.

The old Hux building won't last forever, but the people who go to church there are optimists. Last winter they gave away the old wood-burning stove and, for the first time, installed gas heat. The little grey church in the wildwood may have a lot of life in it yet.

### A New Year . . .

### Each Day —

### New Beginnings

#### Thanks From Pinelake

By Ruby K. Poole  
A thank you to Mississippi Baptists from the Pinelake Baptist Mission of the Griffin Street Baptist Church.

On Jan. 7 the Pinelake Baptist Mission dedicated its first addition, a \$50,000 building 84' x 40'.

The treasury was down to \$300 with outstanding bills, when a \$2,500 check came from Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This check put the mission over the top with all the bills paid. There will be no outstanding bills. Thanks to all you Mississippi Baptists who cooperate in mission giving.

Thanks again to cooperative Mississippi Baptists and your part in the life of the Pinelake Baptist Mission of Vancleave, MS.

The mission has given through the Cooperative Program faithfully each month since organized in 1977.

Athens McNeil  
Pastor Griffin St. Baptist Church  
Moss Point, MS

Nashville — The PTL Network is now broadcasting "At Home with the Bible," a Southern Baptist television production, twice weekly free of charge.

Aunt Gert, being 104, can do that, how much more we should thank God for new opportunities afforded us this new day.

#### The Baptist Record

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# Hunger Fund Guidelines Set; More Giving Urged For Relief

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Taking a long-range look at ways to help solve world hunger and other relief problems, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has adopted a new set of guidelines for use of hunger relief funds. At the same time the board has sounded a warning that its general relief funds are almost depleted.

The new guidelines, adopted at the December meeting, call for extensive developmental efforts in the area of hunger relief, in addition to regular food distribution and other kinds of emergency aid. They spell out ways in which the board hopes to enable the world's destitute people to feed themselves through improved agriculture and increased job productivity.

"The adoption of the guidelines will expedite utilization of hunger relief funds in projects designed to deal with causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's coordinator of hunger relief and disaster response.

Southern Baptist gifts for hunger relief have increased dramatically in the four months since the Aug. 4 World Hunger Day. Through November, giving for world hunger and relief totaled \$1,563,206 — almost double the \$799,897 given in the same 11-month period of 1977.

The increased giving was primarily designated for hunger relief. Almost all of the general relief funds, needed to respond to natural disaster, have been allocated.

Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, noted that "we are at a time when Southern Baptists need to be informed of our needs in this area. Natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes continue to take their toll, and the board needs general relief contributions if it is to continue trying to help the victims of such catastrophes." Crawley said.

The newly adopted guidelines specify that hunger relief funds will not be used in responding to natural disasters or crises except in supplying food, restoring facilities needed for food supplies or assisting with access to food supplies. General relief money is used to provide for disaster victims' medical, shelter and rebuilding needs.

But the new guidelines recognize that hunger relief contributions can do far more than provide for people's immediate needs for food. They stress the importance of improved techniques of food production, food preservation, education and training to improve wage-earning ability.

Projects should be developed for hunger prevention by identifying and treating causes, the statement points out. As an example, it suggests developing a village or area model by working with the local people to improve supply and quality of food, pure water supply, methods of sanitation and hygiene.

In urban areas, the board will seek to help break poverty cycles by providing help in obtaining work permits for

which fees must be paid and giving handicraft and vocational training in addition to feeding families and assisting children with clothing and education.

These kinds of projects have been done by the board on a small scale for the past several years, using general relief funds. New guidelines will allow for stepping up of development projects.

Although the scope of work done with hunger and relief funds broadened with the guidelines, some basic policies remained the same. Hunger and general relief funds will continue to be kept separate and used as designated. Funds designated for a particular country or project will go where the donor asks.

Missionaries will administer the funds on the field and requests for hunger relief aid will come from the field to the area secretary.

As before, every penny of hunger and relief funds will go overseas.

Missionary salaries and regular overseas operating expenses will continue to be a part of the total support task financed by Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering gifts.

## Robinhood Church Will Sponsor Bible Conference

Robinhood Church, Rankin County, six miles south of Brandon, will hold a Bible Conference Jan. 28-Feb. 2. Conferences will begin each evening at 7. Lamar Ball of Crump, Tenn. and G. A. McCoy, pastor of Union Church, Picayune, will lead the Bible study sessions.

Jimmy Yocom will direct the music for the conference. Joe Royalty is the pastor.

Undoubtedly, the first man who ever tore a telephone book in half had a teen-aged daughter. — Joan I. Welsh

## Retired Pastor Dies In Georgia

Howard Beck Benson, retired pastor, native of Attala County, Mississippi died suddenly at his home in Carrollton, Ga., from an apparent heart attack.

He was ordained into the ministry in 1933, during his first year at Mississippi College, and Pleasant Grove Church in Grenada County was his first pastorate.

He graduated from New Orleans Seminary in 1941, later serving on its Board of Trustees for several years. Other Mississippi pastorates included Dentville (Copiah) and Terry (Hinds) before going to First Church, Carrollton, Ga., where he was pastor for 31 years.

He led in setting up the first school for mentally retarded children in West Georgia, organized the first unit of the Extension Department of Mercer University and taught in it for 15 years, helped establish a school for black preachers and laymen under the auspices of the National Seminary in Nashville, Tenn., and taught in the school.

After retiring from the pastorate in 1975, he opened a counseling office and served as interim pastor for several churches.

He is survived by his wife, Inez Gilbert Benson, formerly of Clarksdale, and six sisters: Euna Freshour, Bolton; Clara Lucius, Drew; Leona Phillips, Ridgeland; Margie Sealy, Clinton; Carrie Lee Wiseman, Greenville; and Gertrude Simpson, Metairie, La.

He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Benson.

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**FOR SALE:** Church pews. 68 oak off-white ends. \$10.00 per ft. or make offer. Call 939-3379 before noon or write McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, 404 Pemberton, Pearl, MS 39208.

**FOR SALE:** 120 chairs at \$4.00 each. West Poplarville Baptist Church. Call Paul Watts, 795-4745.

**FOR SALE:** 32 pews — like new — used 3 years — Colonial design — bronze gold cushions, 18 feet long, available April — May 1979. Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, MS. Call 956-5000 between 8:30 - 4:30.

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## Ashland Women Take Nursing Home Residents "Shopping"

By Myrtle Crawford  
WMU Director, Ashland

The December Royal Service had a project in it which we, the WMU, carried out — "A Shopping Center for a Retirement Home at Christmas Time."

We chose the "Care Inn" in Holly Springs. We gave each patient two bills of play money with which they could buy two gifts — one for themselves and one for a friend or loved one.

Tables were set up in the dining area. Gifts were bought with the money the men's Sunday School Class had contributed. We bought cologne, socks, hair nets, hose, beads, fancy pins, gloves, and also a snow scene under glass which they could keep in their rooms. All gifts were placed on the tables.

A certain number would come in to shop — some in wheel chairs, some on

crutches, but most of them came on their own power. After buying their gifts, they went to a table of ribbons and bows and beautiful shiny wrapping paper and had their gifts wrapped.

This experience was a blessing to all who participated. We challenge other WMU officers to try this project next year. You will be well paid. The women and men of the home are for a few hours transported into the land of make-believe where there are no crutches, no wheel chairs, no limited mobility, no limited money, but a feeling of "I can do something for someone myself."

You want to weep, you want to laugh, you want to praise the Lord for these people, who have caused you to look inside yourselves and resolve to be more thoughtful of others in 1979.

Ruth Akin is Mission Action Chairman, and Blondie Crawford and Wildard Jordan, Committee Members.

The Marshall Messenger printed the story of this event.

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## Mississippi

## High Twenty-Five Churches Church Training Study Course Awards

October, 1977 — September, 1978

1. Clear Creek, Oxford (69)	16. Crooked Creek, Silver Creek (17)
2. Highland, Laurel (46)	First, Ellisville (17)
3. East Fork, Smithdale (41)	Bogue Chitto, Bogue Chitto (16)
4. First, Picayune (37)	First, Jackson (16)
5. Kreole, Moss Point (31)	First, Starkville (16)
6. First, Greenville (30)	Parkway, Jackson (15)
7. Arm, Silver Creek (24)	First, Purvis (13)
8. Calvary, Tupelo (23)	North Oxford, Oxford (11)
9. First, Pascagoula (20)	Drew, Drew (11)
10. Belden, Belden (19)	First, Louisville (11)
11. Griffin Street, Moss Point (19)	Priceville, Tupelo (10)
12. New Prospect, Brookhaven (17)	Calvary, Corinth (10)
North McComb, McComb (17)	

## Mississippi

## High Twenty-Five Churches Baptist Doctrine Study Course Awards

October, 1977 — September, 1978

1. First, Greenville (107)	14. Trinity, Carthage (27)
2. First, Baldwin (83)	Belden, Belden (26)
3. West Heights, Pontotoc (70)	First, Brandon (22)
4. Byram, Jackson (63)	Gunnison, Gunnison (22)
5. Oak Forest, Jackson (62)	First, Vicksburg (21)
6. Whitesand, Prentiss (53)	West Ellisville, Ellisville (21)
7. Harrisburg, Tupelo (50)	Tinsley, Tinsley (20)
8. Van Winkle, Jackson (48)	Liberty, Noxapater (20)
9. First, Ellisville (44)	Blue Lake, Lambert (20)
10. First, Magee (39)	New Hebron, New Hebron (19)
11. Cruger, Cruger (35)	Emmanuel, Laurel (18)
12. West Jackson Street, Tupelo (33)	Immanuel, Cleveland (17)
Eastview, Meridian (31)	

## Gulf Coast Bible Conference



JERRY VINES

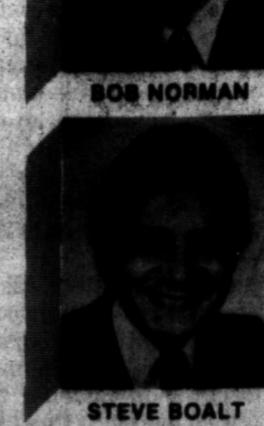


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## In Names The News

Evelyn (Mrs. Charles) Askew

celebrates her 34th anniversary this month as a staff member at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. She was first employed as interim church secretary. For more than 26 years she has been church hostess. John E. Barnes, Jr. is the pastor.

Randall Perry, pastor of Bay Vista Church, Gulf Coast, and his wife Debi have a new son, Jonathan Randall, born Dec. 26, 1978.

Floyd A. Craig, Director of Public Relations and Development for the Christian Life Commission, SBC, has been appointed Governor's Ombudsman and Deputy Director

# Just For The Record



Birmingham Church (Lee) has celebrated the note burning ceremony for full payment of its educational building note, by its members in one year. Right to left are members of the Building Committee, trustees, and deacons: Murry Long, Raymond Smith, Marcus Easterling, Jimmy Jackson, Charles Hankins, John Ed Montgomery, John Dillard, Bob Epting, Troy Anglin, and Pastor Bob Holland. The pastor stated, "What is happening in this church now is evidence of God's work and will being carried out. There is a precious spirit of warmth and excitement in the church fellowship."



NEW SARDIS CHURCH in Smith County set a 1978 Lottie Moon Offering goal of \$300. RA boys of the church alone raised \$304 for the offering, so the church far exceeded its goal. The RAs went on a five-mile hike; their family and friends pledged whatever they wished for each mile walked. Bottom row, left to right, Shad Harvey, Matt Wiltshire, Middle row: Ricky Meadows, Terry Smith, Tim Harrison, Paul Smith, and Duran Runnels. Top row (leaders): Henry Wiltshire, Greg Smith, pastor, and Gaynell Meadows.

## Ashland Is \$1184.76 Over Goal

Ashland Church, Ashland, has gone over its goal on the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by the amount of \$1184.76.

The goal, set for \$2200.00, was sur-

passed, and the final total was \$3386.76.

The foreign missions program in Royal Service for December was written by Stewart Calvert, wife of a former pastor at Ashland.

Ann Harrison is Mission Support Chairman of Ashland WMU. Carolyn Daniels is president and Myrtle Crawford, director. Roy Hamilton is pastor.

Hebron Church, Yazoo County, will have a service Sunday, Jan. 28, to burn the note on the new sanctuary. Bill Hutto, pastor, said, "The Lord blessed

the church and we were able to pay for the new church building in a little over three years." Hutto has been pastor at Hebron for four years.

## New Hope Exceeds Goal

The New Hope Church, Lawrence County, set a goal of \$800 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. This goal was exceeded by \$232.60 making a total of \$1,032.60 given through this special offering for 1978.

Drew D. Blanton is pastor.

First, Long Beach, will have a youth retreat Jan. 26-27. The church exceeded its Lottie Moon goal of \$3,500.

Pass Road Church, Gulf Coast, has begun a radio ministry over WVMI, 10:30-14 on Sunday mornings.

Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport has bought additional property for \$25,000. Through savings and special efforts the members are paying cash.

## Life and Work Lesson

### How Can A Just God Justify Sinners?

By Joe N. McKeever, First, Columbus

Romans 3:21-31

After a sermon that went over the heads of the congregation a deacon walked up to the pastor and said, "Preacher, the Lord said, 'Feed my sheep' — not my giraffes!"

The pastor's response was "If that sermon was over your head, maybe you need to raise your head!"

We get the feeling in reading Romans that Paul is showing us how deep he can get when he sets his mind to it.

Yet, it's not profundity for the sake of impressing his readers. This is pow-

erful stuff Paul is laying on us.

Look at the question again: How can a just God justify sinners?

The problem is with the just-ness (holiness) of God and the iniquity of man. Would a holy God touch dirty man?

The Greeks would have solved the problem by saying that God didn't, period. Instead, a "being" that He created who was less than God and thus could afford to "handle" sin, was the justifier.

Such a "solution" comes from an unwillingness to involve the Creator in

His creation. We Christians declare determinedly that "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us . . ." (John 1:14). God has been here, has done all necessary for our salvation, and today is in the redeeming business.

Okay, get your Bibles and let's walk through Romans 3:21-31. First, let's define justification. It's a term from the legal courtroom. You are guilty and without an excuse. But God declares you innocent — and makes you so. That's the beauty of it.

Wow! How can He do that? As our friend Harper Shannon points out, the

question Paul raises is never, how can a just God allow anyone to go to hell. It's just the opposite — how can a just God let anyone go to heaven? How can He pardon sin? Let's find the answer.

3:21 We see God's righteousness in the Old Testament Scriptures (the Law and the Prophets). So this is not a new discovery.

3:22 We can have God's righteousness by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's God's one provision for Jews and non-Jews alike. And faith the single requirement for obtaining that righteousness.

By Larry Kennedy, First, Laurel

Nehemiah 2:1-18

One day a fisherman was sitting on the pier with a bucket and a ten-inch ruler. A stranger who was watching the fisherman noticed that the old sea veteran was constantly measuring the fish that he caught. His first catch was a fish six inches long which he carefully placed into his bucket. The second fish that he caught was nine inches in length, and it was gently placed into the bucket. The third fish caught by the fisherman was twelve inches in length, and the old fisherman quickly threw it back into the water.

The stranger was amazed that the fisherman was constantly throwing the large fish back into the ocean. Unable to understand the reasoning behind this process, the stranger walked over to the fisherman and asked, "Sir, why do you keep the small fish and throw the large ones away?"

The response of the fisherman was a classic: "Because my frying pan is only ten inches."

It is true that some people have a very small vision. Even among God's people there are those who seemed to be limited in their thinking; however, the Scripture lesson reminds us that God is able to call men who believe that with God's help man is able to do the impossible. Nehemiah was such a man.

Nehemiah was a trusted Jewish servant of the Persian king, Artaxerxes. As he carried out his duties at the royal court in the year 445 B.C., Nehemiah received word that the city of Jerusalem was still in ruins and that very little had been done to restore the city to its former position. Although some of the Jewish brethren had been allowed to return to the city at least a hundred years prior to Nehemiah's ministry (the first Jews probably returned to Jerusalem in 536 B.C. ending their Babylonian captivity), a spirit of complacency had settled over the ancient city.

Through a combination of internal and external factors, the walls and the gates of Jerusalem were still in ruins; however, Nehemiah was determined that the city would be rebuilt as a haven for God's people.

I. Nehemiah's Sacrifice

Leaving the palace of the Persian king, Nehemiah "came to Jerusalem and was there three days" (Neh. 2:11). At the royal palace Nehemiah had been at ease. He had been in the inner circle of the king's court with numerous servants to respond to his every wish. He had been working eight hours a day with double pay for his overtime. He had rubbed shoulders with the royalty of the world and had whispered advice in the king's ear. However, he exchanged it all for a job that offered a

twenty hour work day, no pay, and God's blessing expressed through the permission of the Persian king to rebuild.

#### IV. Nehemiah's Servants

Upon hearing Nehemiah's challenge, the people responded and said, "Let us arise and build" (Neh. 2:18). It is amazing how people will respond to a challenge. The citizens of Jerusalem wanted to rebuild, but they needed a man of vision who would remind them that the rebuilding could be accomplished.

Patty Wilson was 13 years old when she discovered she was an epileptic. Through the encouragement of her father, she decided to become a long distance runner. For a starter, she decided to run from Los Angeles to San Francisco (400 miles). She trained for a year and made the historic run. Unwilling to be satisfied with that accomplishment, she ran from Los Angeles to Portland, Oregon (1300 miles). Patty says that she runs with the hope that she will inspire other handicapped people to overcome their problems.

Nehemiah, Patty Wilson, and others like them remind us that only the courageous ever accomplish anything in life. God has not promised us a rose garden, but he has promised us his presence as we accept his challenge to be God's people.

## Uniform Lesson

### The Stewardship Of Life And Work

## Mount Olive

### Has 'Missions

### Night Out'

Mount Olive Church, Carroll County, has exceeded its \$1000 goal for the second year. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering total this year is \$1009.68.

Mount Olive members emphasized mission education in numerous activities during December. One week included a prayer luncheon, a Wednesday night prayer service where the Christmas tree was decorated with Lottie Moon Christmas offerings, a Missions Night Out, and a prayer meeting on Saturday for Senior Citizens followed by a lunch of Brunswick stew.

Rex and Sherry Holt, missionaries on furlough from Lome, West Africa, gave a program with slides at the Missions Night Out, which was held at a local restaurant. Carl Braswell is pastor.

First Church, Gulfport has established a missions committee that is functioning in connection with new mission work on Popp's Ferry.

## Devotional

### Having And Giving

By Rusty Griffin, Consultant, Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

*And from everyone who has been given much, much also shall be required, and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more (Luke 12:48-b, New American Standard Bible).*

This scripture passage has always been a meaningful one to me, especially during this time of the year as I look back on the blessings of the last year and begin to set goals for the coming year. Each of us has much to be grateful for because we have been blessed so richly with gifts of loved ones, Christian fellowship and eternal life. It is out of love and gratitude for these blessings that we are encouraged to serve the Giver of these gifts with a deeper and more complete commitment.

Several days ago in an unusual setting, this scripture again came to my mind. I was standing outside the Bellepoint Baptist Church on Kentucky Avenue in Frankfort, Kentucky. The street, the lawn and the church walls were all covered with a muddy silt deposited there by several days of flooding. I was there as a part of the Disaster Relief Task Force sent by Mississippi Baptists to aid the flood victims. More than once tears came to my eyes as I watched families pile all of their belongings beside the street to be picked up as trash. The water had ruined clothing, carpets, furniture and yet unopened Christmas gifts.

In the midst of this tragedy with all of its sadness, a feeling of pride began to swell inside of me... proud because I was a Mississippi Baptist! We were a group of people to whom God had given much... and now in this time of real need, Mississippi Baptists were giving of themselves to help others. As one of the flood victims had her first hot meal in several days, she commented, "I don't know why you've come, but I sure am glad!" I knew why we had come and I was glad too.

May 1979 be a year that, as Mississippi Baptists, we continue to expand our ministry in service to our Master... and equally as important, as individual Christians may we commit all that we have to the Lord's service. We have been given much, and of us much can be given to glorify our Lord and Savior.

3:23 All mankind is described here. You recall Jesus' words: "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." That covers us all.

3:24 This verse says it. Our justification comes freely, as a gift. Check out Romans 6:23 and John 4:10. Then, it is prompted by God's grace.

Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve, and that is redemption which is in Christ.

The word "Redemption" comes from the slave market. It means a releasing by ransom. Jesus promised to become such a ransom in Mark 10:45. Jesus has made us truly free. Free to be all God intended.

Before continuing, let's recap this 24th verse. Our being justified is:

a gift — the manner in which we receive

of grace — the motive from which God gives

through redemption — the miracle which Christ's death achieves.

in Christ Jesus — the mediator by which God and man unite.

3:25 Does the word "propitiation" throw you? Welcome to the club. Here's an insight: it's the same word as "mercy-seat" on the ark of the covenant. See Hebrews 9:5.

God presented Christ as His mercy-gift to redeem us. This was accomplished through His blood and becomes ours by faith.

3:26 Whereas previously God passed over the sins of man, now He de-

## Revival Dates

Richland Church (Rankin): Jan. 28-Feb. 4; Larry Taylor, of San Antonio, Texas, full-time evangelist, preaching; Mike Smith, leading the music; Paul B. Williamson, Jr., pastor; services at 7:30 evenings and 11 Sunday morning. (Taylor has spoken in over 400 high schools and junior high schools on the dangers of drug abuse. Over 300,000 teenagers have heard these messages.)

Bay Vista (Gulf Coast): Feb. 23-25; Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Randall Perry, pastor.

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II has urged Italian Catholic doctors to resist public pressures and refuse to perform an abortion. When Italy's abortion law went into effect on June 6, it was stipulated that doctors who had moral objections to the operation were to register as conscientious objectors. The law, one of the most liberal on the continent, allows any woman over 18 to have an abortion, virtually on demand, within the first 90 days of pregnancy.

## Devotional

### Having And Giving

By Rusty Griffin, Consultant, Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

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Several days ago in an unusual setting, this scripture again came to my mind. I was standing outside the Bellepoint Baptist Church on Kentucky Avenue in Frankfort, Kentucky. The street, the lawn and the church walls were all covered with a muddy silt deposited there by several days of flooding. I was there as a part of the Disaster Relief Task Force sent by Mississippi Baptists to aid the flood victims. More than once tears came to my eyes as I watched families pile all of their belongings beside the street to be picked up as trash. The water had ruined clothing, carpets, furniture and yet unopened Christmas gifts.

In the midst of this tragedy with all of its sadness, a feeling of pride began to swell inside of me... proud because I was a Mississippi Baptist! We were a group of people to whom God had given much... and now in this time of real need, Mississippi Baptists were giving of themselves to help others. As one of the flood victims had her first hot meal in several days, she commented, "I don't know why you've come, but I sure am glad!" I knew why we had come and I was glad too.

May 1979 be a year that, as Mississippi Baptists, we continue to expand our ministry in service to our Master... and equally as important, as individual Christians may we commit all that we have to the Lord's service. We have been given much, and of us much can be given to glorify our Lord and Savior.

3:23 All mankind is described here. You recall Jesus' words: "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." That covers us all.

3:24 This verse says it. Our justification comes freely, as a gift. Check out Romans 6:23 and John 4:10. Then, it is prompted by God's grace.

Grace is God giving us what we do not deserve, and that is redemption which is in Christ.

3:25 Does the word "propitiation" throw you? Welcome to the club. Here's an insight: it's the same word as "mercy-seat" on the ark of the covenant. See Hebrews 9:5.

To the contrary, it upholds the Law. The purposes for which it was given are still good ones — to show God's righteousness, to instruct man in living, to reveal sin.

But it doesn't save. It brings man to the point of needing salvation — and drops him there, so to speak. Then he puts his faith in Christ, and He saves him. So the Law did what it was supposed to do.

3:29 So the method is the same for all, Jews and non-Jews. God is God of both.

3:30 Ditto. He is one God and His ways of dealing with lost mankind are established. The key remains faith.

3:31 As a postscript, Paul — ever the Theologian — asks, "Well, what does this do to the Law, nullify it?"

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